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News Bulletin of The Entomological Society of Victoria Inc.

THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA (Inc)

MEMBERSHIP

Any person with an interest in entomology shall be eligible for Ordinary membership. Members of the Society include professional, amateur and student entomologists, all of whom receive the Society's News Bulletin, the Victorian Entomologist.

OBJECTIVES

The aims of the Society are:

- (a) to stimulate the scientific study and discussion of all aspects of entomology,
- (b) to gather, disseminate and record knowledge of all identifiable Australian insect species,
- (c) to compile a comprehensive list of all Victorian insect species,
- (d) to bring together in a congenial but scientific atmosphere all persons interested in entomology.

MEETINGS

The Society's meetings are held at the 'Discovery Centre', Lower Ground Floor, Museum Victoria, Carlton Gardens, Melway reference Map 43 K5 at 8 p.m. on the third Tuesday of even months, with the exception of the December meeting which is held on the second Tuesday. Lectures by guest speakers or members are a feature of many meetings at which there is ample opportunity for informal discussion between members with similar interests. Forums are also conducted by members on their own particular interest so that others may participate in discussions.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Ordinary Member	\$30 (overseas members \$32)
Country Member	\$26 (Over 100 km from GPO Melbourne)
Student Member	\$18
Electronic (only)	\$20
Associate Member	\$7 (No News Bulletin)
Institution	\$35 (overseas Institutions \$40)

Associate Members, resident at the same address as, and being immediate relatives of an ordinary Member, do not automatically receive the Society's publications but in all other respects rank as ordinary Members.

LIFE MEMBERS: P. Carwardine, Dr. R. Field, D. Holmes, Dr. T. New, Dr. K. Walker.

Cover design by Alan Hyman.

Cover photo *Euops* probable *falcata* This photo was taken at Golden Valley Lodge, Flinders on the Mornington Peninsula on 26th Mar 2011 by Joshua Grubb. For the story of this taxon see Rolf Oberprieler's notes on page 1VE 42(1) February 2012.

Minutes of the General Meeting 17 April 2012

Present:

Members: R. Adair, R. Best, P. Carwardine I. Endersby, M. Endersby, J. Grubb, K. Harris, M. Hewish, G. Hogg, D. Holmes, G. Kuseff, L. Levens, P. Lillywhite, P. Marriott, K. McBean, G. Moors, C. Page, L. Rogan, G. Weeks, S. Williams

Visitors: E. Hogg, G. Holmes, J. Holmes, M. Moors, D. Mules.

Apologies: C. Car, S. Curle, D. Dobrosak, L. Jolley, K. Proudley, D. Stewart, K. Walker.

The meeting was opened at 20:20 following the Annual General Meeting.

Our Guest speaker was member, Steve Williams, who presented his methodology and format for Raising Lepidoptera. We were captivated by the hobby of Steve who has bred through over 200 species of moths from his revegetated land at Eppalock in central Victoria, discovering many aspects of larval feeding habits, and photographing all life stages of at least 100 species. (Example figure 1 below) All that in just two years. Steve rigorously documents the number of each species that visits his lights every night.

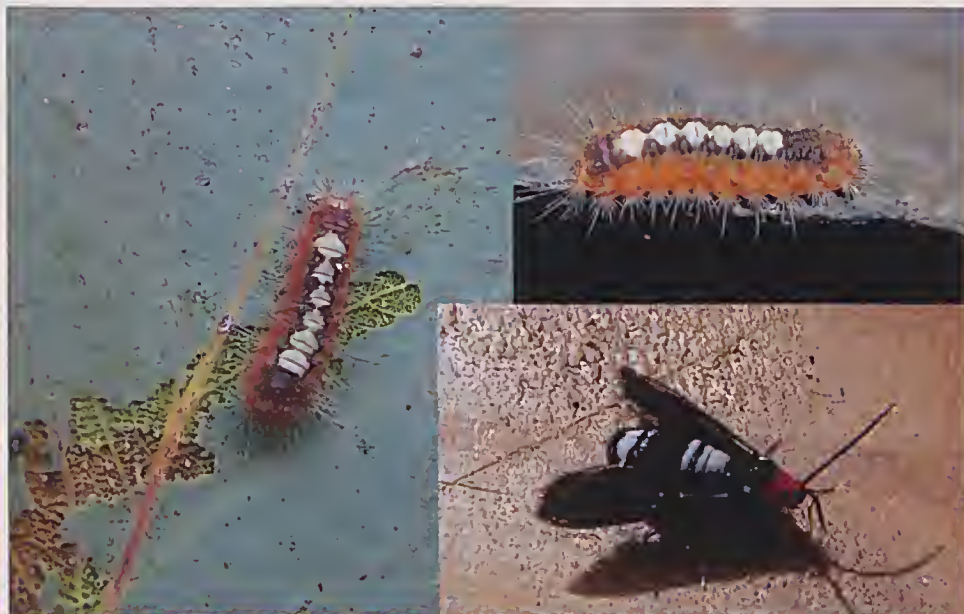


Figure 1. This moth is in the family Zygaenidae and is *Hestiochora continentalis*. It is bivoltine in my area with larval phases present in Sept./Oct./Nov. and Mar./Apr. It feeds on both Grey Box and Red Box at Eppalock but prefers the former and is present only on fully mature and aged living leaves. It is a leaf miner and produces characteristic feeding tracks throughout the larval phase. It will not eat young leaves preferring to starve. These are probably the first colour photographs of the larvae. McFarland has raised it in 1970 on mallee eucalypts and it is described in "Monographs on Australian Lepidoptera" Vol 9. Zygaenid Moths of Australia, 2004 pp 145-148 by Gerhard M. Tarmann.

Steve describes his study protocol as Light; Capture; Contain; Egg Laying; Research; Feeding; Release. Each stage of the lifestyle is photographed and numerous potential food plants are offered to first instar larvae in a series of choice experiments. Sometimes egg morphology or oviposition behaviour can give clues as to likely food plant.

All of Steve's observations, experiments and photographs are contained in his electronic database. He concluded his presentation with a number of life stories that he had uncovered.



Range of food sources offered to one type of moth larva.

A number of members contributed their own experience in raising larvae or photographing insects.

The meeting was closed at 21:20.



Some Limacodidae larvae that Steve has raised.

More of Steve's photos are on page 62

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 17 April 2012

Present:

Members: R. Adair, R. Best, P. Carwardine, I. Endersby, M. Endersby, J. Grubb, K. Harris, M. Hewish, G. Hogg, D. Holmes, G. Kuseff, L. Levens, P. Lillywhite, P. Marriott, K. McBean, G. Moors, C. Page, L. Rogan, G. Weeks, S. Williams.

Visitors:

E. Hogg, G. Holmes, J. Holmes, M. Moors, D. Mules.

Apologies:

C. Car, S. Curle, D. Dobrosak, L. Jolley, K. Proudley, D. Stewart, K. Walker.

The meeting was opened at 19:45 and the President welcomed members and visitors, particularly David Holmes, a long-standing member.

Minutes:

Minutes of the previous AGM held on 19 April 2011 [*Vic. Ent.* 41(3): 46-47 (2011)] were accepted (m. Harris; s. Lillywhite)

President's Report:

Once again the society has had a fine year with a very strong membership and an active, involved executive. As each of the reports show the Society is in a good position financially and continues to adapt to, and meet the needs of, the various people who are members.

The executive team has been developing strongly and, at our bi-monthly meetings, deals with the various challenges that confront any organisation. We are always open to new ideas for member nights and projects for the Society.

Each member of the executive brings their own area of expertise and they are to be congratulated for their contributions. New members of the executive are welcome always for their new ideas and the way they can make the organisation more responsive to the membership.

Three items should be highlighted from this past year.

- The magazine has always been a central part of the organisation. As our membership is widespread the readership and range of contributors go well beyond Melbourne where the meetings cater for local members. Linda Rogan has ushered in the new look colour format. Daniel Dobrosak, who developed the magazine so well as previous editor, continues to support in the background. Linda has now taken over the full layout and selection of articles. The reporting of speakers and meeting topics have been developed with Steve Curle to be a full record for interstate or far-flung members. The use of colour in layout and for photographs is striking and adds clarity and interest. Congratulations Linda.

- The web-site has been developed by Viv Curle and Steve maintains the Facebook page. Both get many 'hits' now and increase the amenity for members. With the Curle's new family member there is a 'little' less time for the ongoing maintenance so the arrival of Bowerbird may be a way for us to develop further. As it is being hosted nationally (under ALA funding and auspices) we are exploring ways to incorporate the Society's web page as part of that facility. Ken Walker and the development team are keen to establish the Society's role as a trial for the whole project. It would still be accessed through the regular website but also through the main gateways. It is an exciting new project for the society and another way to add to the contributions we can make to the Victorian and Australian knowledge of entomology.

- Patrick Honan is developing Museum surveys with DSE and other national organisations. Our involvement in Lake Condah, Wilsons Prom and Neds Corner last year has shown how mem-

bers of the society can work with the professional staff of the Museum and other state and national institutions in a practical and knowledgeable way. We are planning to make the process of involvement more responsive and streamlined. This year the Grampians is on the forward planner for November.

Thanks as always to the committee and the Melbourne Museum for hosting our meetings. Thanks too to the contributors and membership for their continued support.

Peter Marriott
President

Treasurer's Report:

Audited financial statements were published in *Vic. Ent* 42(2): 43-44 (2012). Each account, General, Awards and Publication, showed a surplus for the year but there was no Le Souëf Award made. There is adequate funding available for at least two more publications immediately. The Financial report was received (m. I. Endersby; s. Weeks). Sid Cowling was appointed as auditor for 2012 (m. I. Endersby; s. Marriott).

Editor's Report:

This past year has been an exciting one for me as editor for *Victorian Entomologist* with the new look bulletin starting in February 2012. I have been pleased by the increased number of submissions from members and others on a range of topics from families of Attelabidae (primitive weevils) to Zygaenidae (forester moths). It is certainly keeping me on my toes and providing the learning experience I hoped for when accepting the position of Editor.

Thanks to Laura Levens who has helped with "nitpicking" articles and Daniel Dobrosak who does a final check on each bulletin and also puts together the August bulletin when I am travelling. Appreciation is also extended to those who have informed me of items in the bulletin requiring correction.

Thanks to all who have contributed articles, photos and observations over the past year. Please keep up the contributions for the year ahead so that the bulletin can continue to reflect the interests and knowledge of our diverse membership. Given that the cover photo for 2012 is a weevil, further contributions from the superfamily Curculionoidea (Weevil) will be particularly welcomed. I also welcome any feedback as to how the bulletin may be further improved.

I also hope members will send me any photos they believe could be appropriate for the cover of next year's bulletin. I will be looking for good clear photos from another insect family preferably with a bit of a story attached. Final choice will also require that identification has been taken as far as is possible from the photo. I appreciate assistance from our knowledgeable membership for this.

The June bulletin will include a list of members' names and their interests so that others may request to be put in touch with those that share the interest. Please let me know if you wish to change the interests last listed from your membership forms.

Publications Report:

Moths of Victoria, Part 1, has sold out and Council is considering a smaller run revised reprint. Parts 2 and 3 are selling well and Part 4 should be published this year. Council is keen to extend this successful concept to other insect Orders.

Committee Reports:

No nominations were received for the Le Souëf Award but bursaries for the Science Talent Search were sponsored. Our donation will be increased to \$100 from 2012. The Conservation Committee

and the ENTRECS Committee remain in recess, neither of which has been in operation for many years. The ENTRECS business name has been allowed to lapse and that activity of the Society, in its original format, has been superseded by internet-based atlases. So the ENTRECS Committee is effectively dissolved.

There was some support for retaining the Conservation Committee but no offers of assistance. Members who wish to re-vitalise this committee are urged to contact the President.

Receipt of Reports: All reports were received (m. Marriott; s. Lillywhite).

Election of Office Bearers and Council:

No nominations had been received for any of the positions and no nominations were received from the floor of the meeting. Each of the following agreed to continue in the position of:

President	P. Marriott
Vice President	P. Carwardine
Honorary Secretary	S. Curle
Honorary Treasurer	I. Endersby
Editor	L. Rogan
Councillor	D. Dobrosak; M. Fiedel; P. Lillywhite

D. Stewart continues in the ex officio position of Immediate Past President.

The meeting was closed at 20:20.

Minutes of the Council Meeting 15 May 2012

Present: P. Marriott, P. Carwardine, L. Rogan, M. Fiedel,

Apologies: K. Walker, D. Stewart, D. Dobrosak, I. Endersby, Steve Curle

Minutes: Minutes of the Council Meeting 20 March 2012 m L Rogan s P Marriott

Correspondence: None presented

Treasurers Report:

Account Balances

General a/c \$7,330

Le Souëf a/c \$5,548

Publishing a/c \$15, 588

Unfinancial Members 14

Editor's report:

The list of members' names, areas of interest and suburbs will be an insert in the June bulletin. Daniel has agreed to arrange this. The members of the council are happy to facilitate introductions should members wish to contact other members of the society.

The June bulletin has sufficient material to fill the pages at this stage with some material over for August. Some of the contributions include good colour photos.

Membership Applications:

None for this meeting.

(Continued on page 64)

The currant lettuce aphid, *Nasonovia ribisnigri* arrives in Tasmania: Part 2

LIONEL HILL

Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water & Environment, Tasmania, P.O. Box 303, Devonport 7310, Lionel.Hill@dpiwwe.tas.gov.au.

The currant lettuce aphid (CLA), *Nasonovia ribisnigri* Mosley first established in Australia in Tasmania during February 2004 after establishing in New Zealand in February 2002. Unlike most incursions of new pests, CLA may have entered without human assistance by travelling in unusual, easterly airflows from New Zealand. The first part of this article documented the field surveys to delimit the newly arrived pest. This second part provides some meteorological analysis supporting this view. A third part will conclude the documentation of this pest incursion.

Potential pathway of the CLA incursion

Extreme weather events took place across Australia during January 2004 (Bureau of Meteorology, 2012; Williams, 2012). Heavy rain and notable hail storms caused flooding in many parts of the mainland. The Bureau of Meteorology (2012) reported that for Sydney, "It was the stormiest month since November 1976. Sydney also recorded 10 days of lightning, the highest for January since 1933". Williams figured the widespread nature of these storms on 30 January. They extended across the Northern Territory, Queensland and into the Tasman Sea ahead of a trough illustrated in Figures 3 and 4.

Near the end of January many Tasmanian localities received record daily rainfalls, either for January (Forthside, 108mm on 28 January) or for any month (Devonport, 95mm on 28 January). Williams (2012) figured the mean sea level analysis chart for 4PM EST, 30 January (similar to Fig. 4) to explain widespread storm activity across Australia. Williams drew on Bureau of Meteorology analysis to write, "This monsoonal trough, separating south-easterly winds to the south from a westerly airflow to the north, normally lies farther north, triggering the heavy rain expected in the Northern Territory and Queensland wet season. Its southerly movement has drawn deep reserves of tropical moisture into south-east Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania, while the movement of colder upper air over south-east Australia this week has interacted with the moisture to produce flood rain in Tasmania and violent storms and flash flooding in Victoria and south-east Queensland."

Sinclair described the most common paths of anticyclones around the southern hemisphere and figured (Sinclair, 1996, Fig. 12c) an average location of blocking anticyclones south of New Zealand. It is clear from mean sea level analysis charts below (Figs 2-7) that several anticyclones occurred at uncommonly southern latitudes (45-50 °S) in late January 2004.

These anticyclones or high pressure systems initially extended from 110°E to 180°E on 27 January (Fig. 1). By 28 January they formed a very long ridge at 50°S from longitude 120°E to 180°E. At the same time several low pressure systems formed a long trough across the Australian mainland (Fig. 2). The anticyclones evolved into a 1028-1030hPa high well south of Tasmania at 53-4° S, 143° E against 1003-5hPa lows near Melbourne and Sydney (Fig. 3) that amalgamated into a 1002 hPa low near Sydney (Fig. 4) and which further deepened into a 997hPa low in the Tasman Sea (Fig. 5).

A broadly suitable airflow from New Zealand to Tasmania was sustained for several days. The Bureau of Meteorology (2012) reported, "Over the period 24 to 31 January a blocking weather pattern became established over southeast Australia and the Tasman Sea. From the 24th to 26th a ridge of high pressure extended south of Tasmania over to New Zealand." Figures 6 and 7 show potential pathways for CLA to have blown at relatively low altitudes from New Zealand to Tasmania. Over the period 25 January (1200UTC) to 27 January (0000UTC), at least, CLA airborne up to 250m above ground level in southern New Zealand could have been carried over 3 days to arrive over Devonport at 500-700m above ground level.

Higher altitude airflows tend not to extend the full distance and also, during this period, tend to curve across the Tasman Sea from the north to the west around the 1002hPa low pressure system of Fig. 5. Lower airflows tend to take the opposite curvature as shown to a small degree in Figures 6 and 7 (see also Fig. 2 in Part 3).

Figure 1. Mean sea level analysis chart for 27 January 2004 at 10 AM Eastern Standard Time.

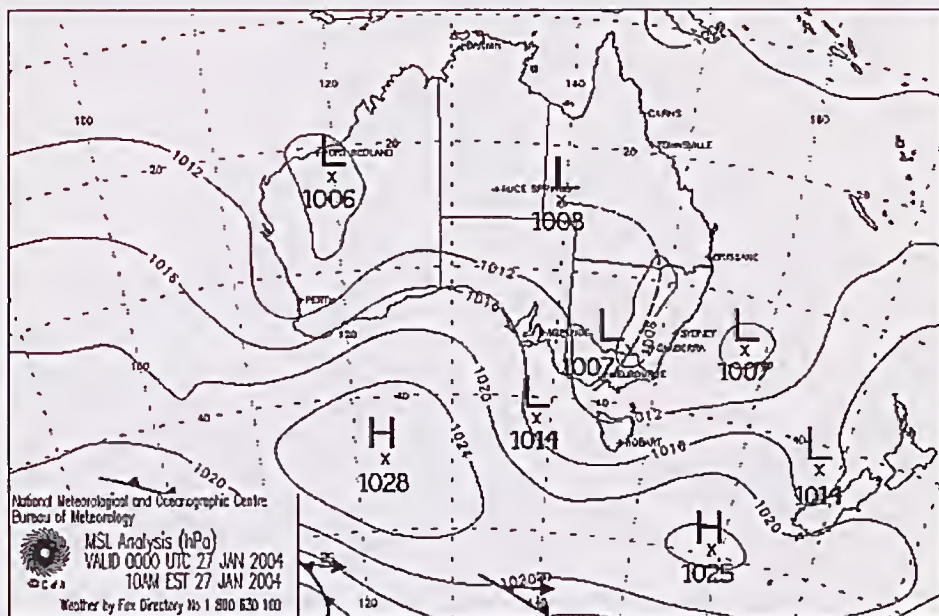


Figure 2. Mean sea level analysis chart for 28 January 2004 at 10 AM Eastern Standard Time.

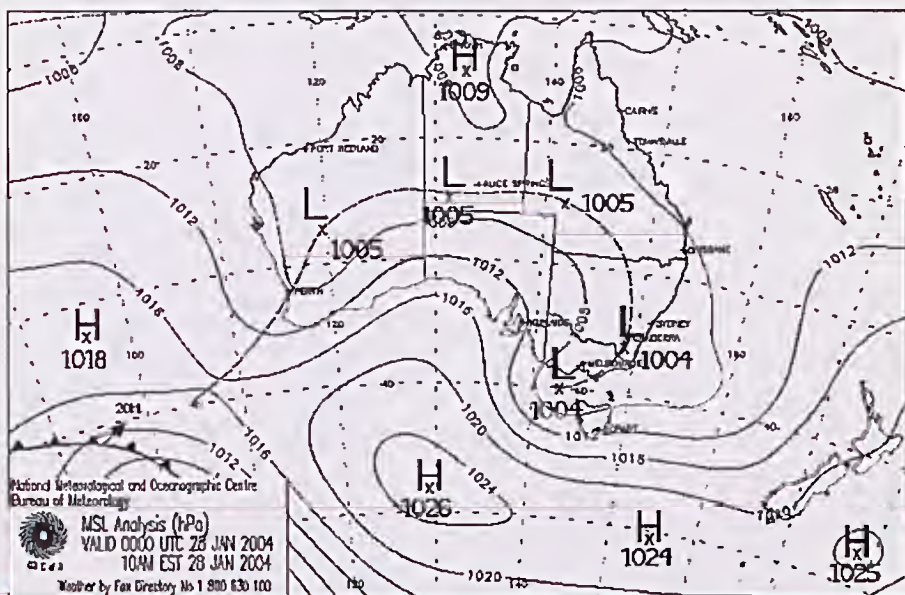


Figure 3. Mean sea level analysis chart for 29 January 2004 at 10 AM Eastern Standard Time.

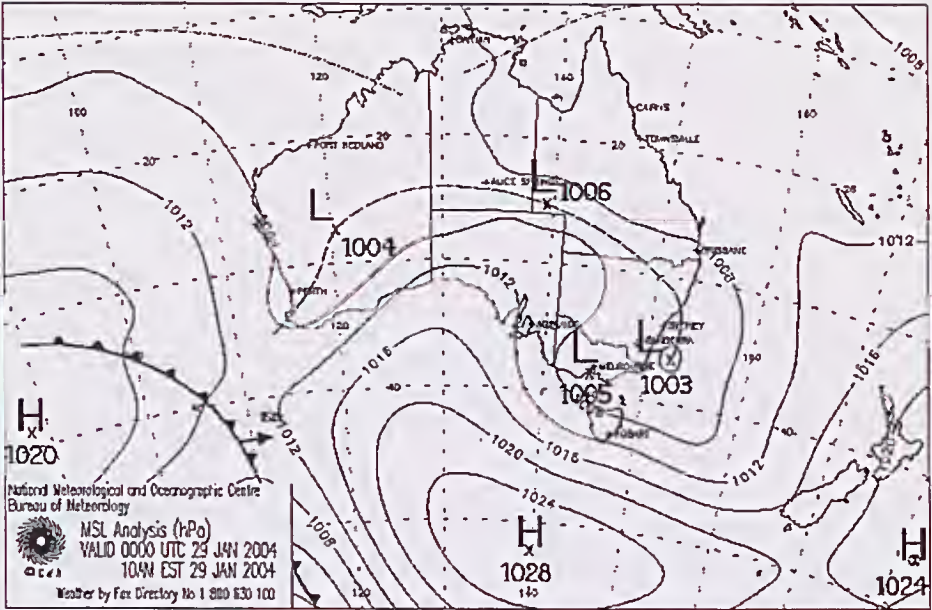


Figure 4. Mean sea level analysis chart for 30 January 2004 at 10 AM Eastern Standard Time.

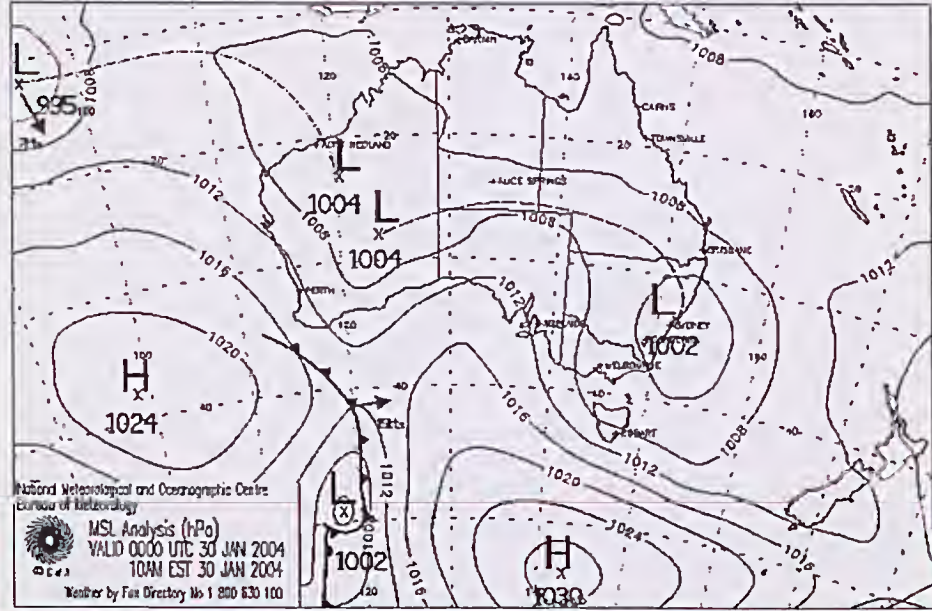


Figure 5. Mean sea level analysis chart for 31 January 2004 at 10 AM Eastern Standard Time.

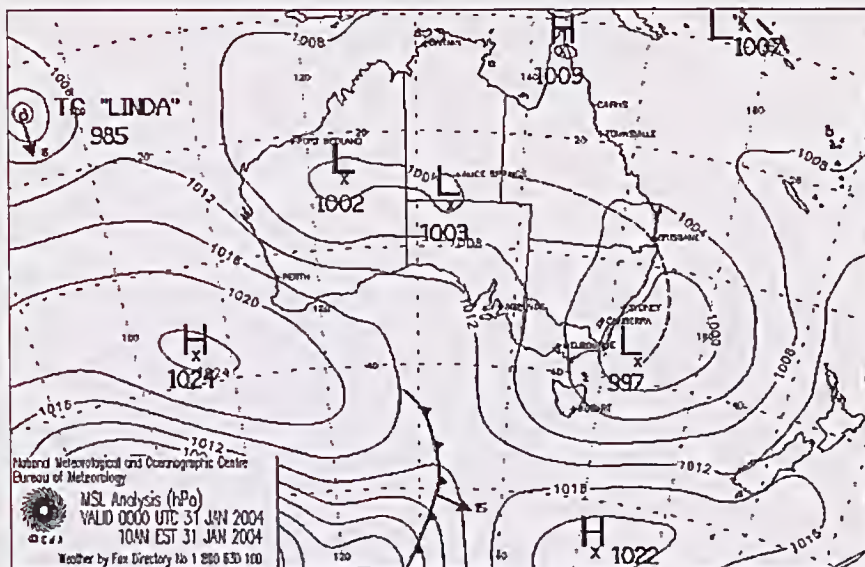


Figure 6. Models of back trajectory airflows for 72 hours ending at 500, 600 and 750m above ground level at Devonport on 10PM EST, 28 January 2004 with markers at 6-hourly intervals.

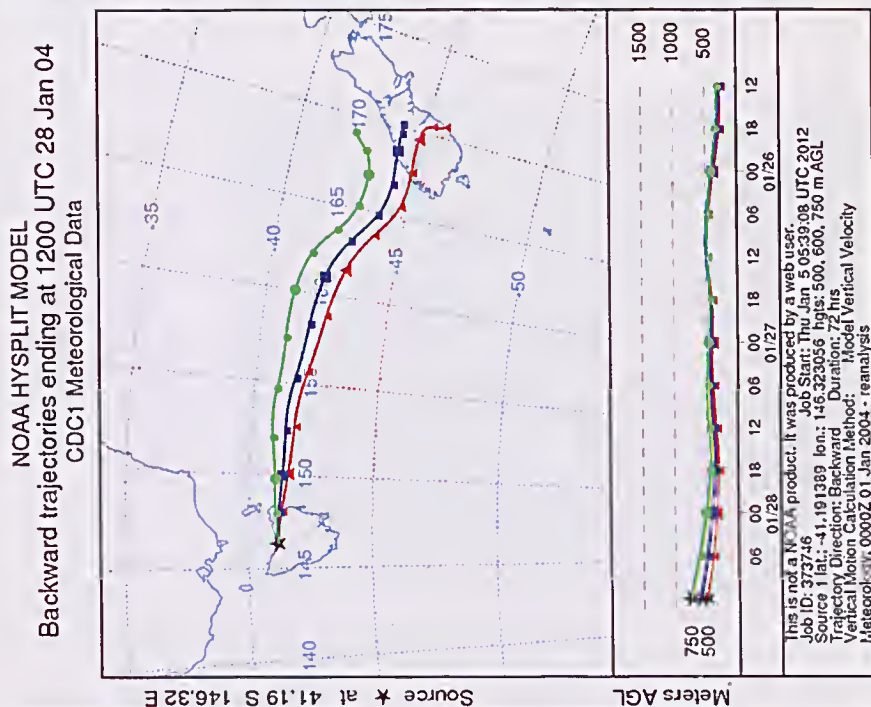
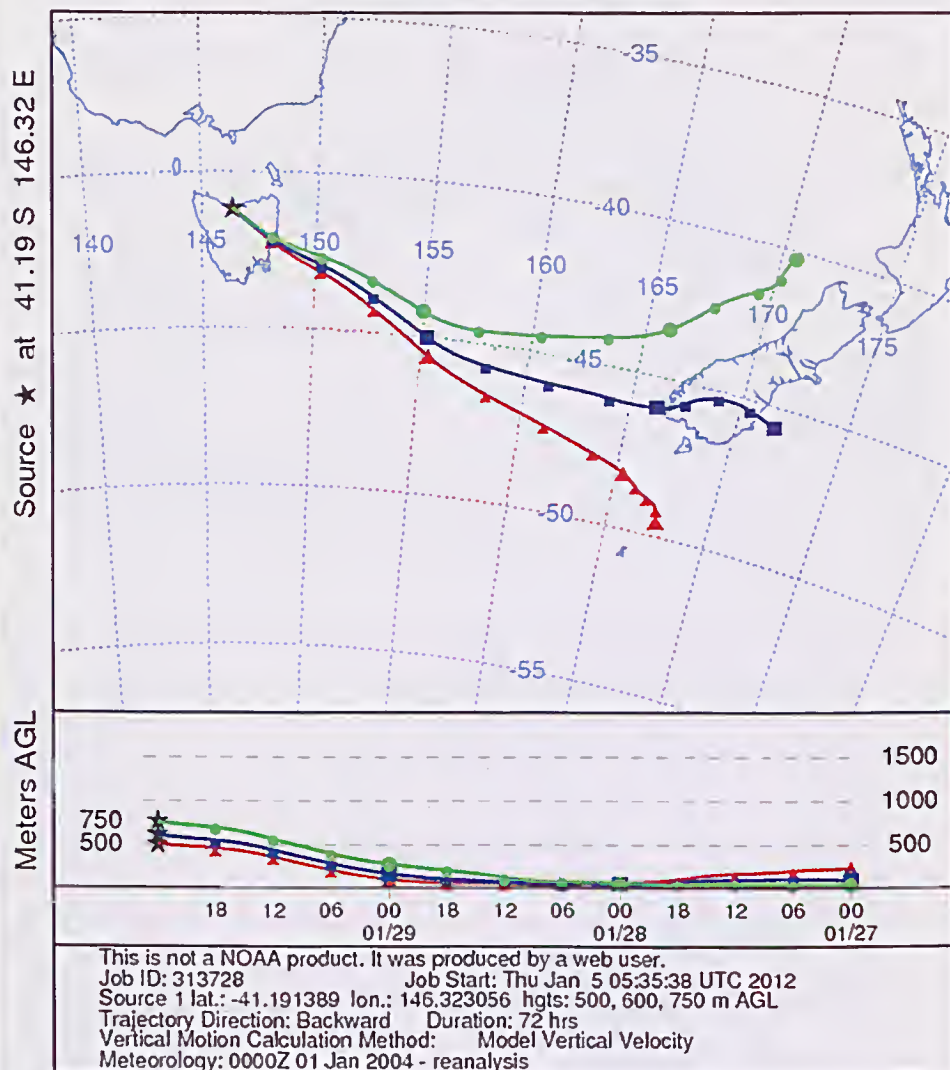


Figure 7. Models of back trajectory airflows over 72 hours ending at 500, 600 and 750m above ground level at Devonport on 10AM EST, 30 January 2004 with markers at 6-hourly intervals.

NOAA HYSPLIT MODEL
Backward trajectories ending at 0000 UTC 30 Jan 04
CDC1 Meteorological Data



Conclusion

Suitable but rare airflows for migration of an aphid from New Zealand to Tasmania occurred coincidentally with the first detection of CLA in Tasmania. The first part of this article documented that this first appearance was not a point source that gradually expanded but was immediately a large area of northern Tasmania. Nevertheless, one point source within this naturally infested area gave rise to distant outliers because of the highly centralised nature of modern agriculture and rapid trans-

port of plant material over long distances. In the third part of this article the records of several Australian migratory insects at the time of the CLA incursion will be reconciled with the preceding meteorological analysis, alternative pathways will be briefly discussed and some concluding remarks on the current status of CLA in Australia in relation to its host plants will be made.

Dominiak et al. (2009) described the detection and spread of CLA in New South Wales during 2006.

Acknowledgement

The author gratefully acknowledges Draxler, Rolph and the NOAA Air Resources Laboratory (ARL) for the provision of the HYSPLIT transport and dispersion model and READY website (<http://www.arl.noaa.gov/ready.php>) used in this publication.

References

- Bureau of Meteorology (2012). Significant Weather – January 2004. Accessed 6 January 2012 at http://www.bom.gov.au/inside/services_policy/public/sigwxsum/pdf/sigw0104.pdf.
- Dominiak, B.C., Links, I.J., Fletcher, M.J., Worsley, P. & McDougall, S.M. (2009). Detection and spread of currant-lettuce aphid *Nasonovia ribisnigri* (Mosley) (Hemiptera: Aphididae) in New South Wales. *General and Applied Entomology* 38: 27-30.
- Draxler, R.R. and Rolph, G.D. (2011). HYSPLIT (HYbrid Single-Particle Lagrangian Integrated Trajectory) Model, <http://ready.arl.noaa.gov/HYSPLIT.php>. NOAA Air Resources Laboratory, Silver Spring, MD.
- Sinclair, M.R. (1996). A climatology of anticyclones and blocking for the Southern Hemisphere. *Monthly Weather Review*, February 1996: 245-263.

Observations

Pachyura australis on Hakea in Bunyip State Park, 17 December 2011, reported by Linda Rogan

I was alerted to the fact that this is a rather primitive form of weevil by Boris, an amateur entomologist from Germany, when he noticed it on my Flickr account. He pointed out the straight antennae and, after consulting Zimmerman's *Australian Weevils*, proposed *Pachyura australis* Belinae, Belinae; it is not a member of Curculionidae family, as I had thought, where antennae are almost always elbowed. Boris stated this would be amongst the first live photos of this creature. Belinae are relict and restricted to the southern hemisphere and mainly in the Australian region.



Thanks to Rolf Oberprieler who kindly confirmed this identification.

Observations continued

Butterfly/moth activity around Castlemaine 2011/12 reported by Tony Morton

Papilio aegens Several adults have been seen in the area - even on the highway into Castlemaine! On 16 Feb 2011 large larvae and pupae were seen on lime and grapefruit in Muckleford, At the end of February, adults began to emerge, on 24 December an adult was seen, on 7 March 2012, another adult was seen, and on 9 March, a female was seen around a cumquat bush. All were the progeny of last year's influx, one assumes. I think the wetter weather has allowed them to establish breeding colonies for the time being.

Heteronympha merope merope. 2011 - 12 has been a very good year for these, especially around grassy, shady, treed areas. I cannot remember seeing so many before.



Polyura pyrrhus sempronius 20 April 2012 at Kalimna Park, Castlemaine Photo by Linda Rogan

Polyura pyrrhus sempronius. I saw the very occasional Four-Tailed Emperor in Kalimna Park in 2002, but have not noticed them since until this season when I have seen several there in late December 2011. They were in fine condition and attracted to sap exuding from a eucalypt. I saw one again at the end of March 2012 settled on the trunk of the same eucalypt with many female *H. merope*. Further sightings of up to three individuals of *P. pyrrhus sempronius* at this spot were made in May 2012 with the last one being 20 April. The species seems quite widespread at the moment, for one was flying around an *Acacia mearnsii* in Vaughan, while another was seen investigating an *Acacia dealbata* in a private garden on the lower slopes of Kalimna Park.

Doratifera oxleyi. I have seen this little cup-moth only occasionally since coming here in 2000, but this March scores of females came to light for about a fortnight in the middle of the month, leaving behind clusters of eggs attached to whatever they were clinging to. I had noticed dozens of these unusual larvae sitting on *Gallia radula* leaves in early

November. They were of all sizes. There had been a storm that night and I wondered if they had been shaken down from the *Eucalypts* above.

Jalmennus evagoras. This species seems to have spread this year. Down at Vaughan Springs, where I have not seen them often, clusters of pupae and larvae were seen on four species of *Acacia* - *acutacea*, *mearnsii*, *melanoxydon*, *retinodes*, all very young plants and planted close to each other. They were most numerous on *A. mearnsii* and *A. melanoxydon*. There's a good colony of *J. evagoras* near Malmesbury which seems always to have a number.

Notes on the biology of *Glyphipterix gemmipunctella* Walker, 1869 – (Lepidoptera, Glyphipterigidae)

Mike Halsey - Yackandandah, NE Victoria

Email m.halsey@latrobe.edu.au

Common (1990 – p.210) records that little is known about the early stages of the Australian *Glyphipterigidae*, noting that only one species has been reared in Australia, *Glyphipterix platydisema* Lower 1893, the larvae of which were stated by Lower (1893) to feed in the stems of *Juncus*.

In March 2011 *G. gemmipunctella* was noted very commonly where I live North of Yackandandah (site ref 36°, 17.053S; 146°, 52.552E, Elevation 290m), together with a strong association with *Lepidosperma laterale* (Cyperaceae – “Variable Sword-Sedge”). The adult moth is shown at Fig 1. Fig 2 is a clump of *L. laterale*.

In the period from December 2011 to February 2012, I collected a number of crowns of *L. laterale*. Individual crowns are easily pulled from the main clump of the plant as the roots are relatively shallow. The crowns were subsequently kept in airtight containers. Dissecting some of these plants, both on site and subsequently, I found lepidoptera larvae located in the thickly folded blades of the stem, just above the crown of the plant. The larva and its host plant are shown in Fig 3.

A specimen of *G. gemmipunctella* emerged on 18th March 2012, at which point I started to search for the pupal cuticle. I was surprised to see small cocoons on the outside of the crown of the *Lepidosperma*. The cocoon is robust, “boat-shaped” and constructed of relatively thick and somewhat brittle silk threads. It is shown in Fig 4. The thick, fibrous nature of the cocoon strongly resembles the plant material at the base of the crown, providing good camouflage. Two further adults emerged, on 4th and 22nd April 2012. I have returned to the site to try to locate cocoons in the wild state, but with no success to date. In captivity, each of the cocoons was constructed very close to the crown itself, no more than 30mm from the base of the plant. Whether this is the case in the wild is not confirmed.

References

Common, I.F.B., 1990. *Moths of Australia* (Melbourne University Press)

Lower, O.B., 1893. New Australian Lepidoptera. *Trans. R. Soc. S. Aust* 17: 146-85



Fig 1. *Glyphipterix gemmipunctella* adult



Fig 2. *Lepidosperma laterale*



Fig 3. *G. gemmipunctella* larva: 3(a) crown of *Lepidosperma laterale* intact, 3(b) the same crown pulled apart showing the larva between the leaf blades, 3(c) the larva extracted from the crown



4(a)



4(b)

Fig 4. *G. gemmipunctella* cocoon: 4(a) showing position on the *Lepidosperma* crown, 4(b) close-up

Life-cycle of *Pseudanapaea tranvestita* Hering, 1931

Stephen Williams steve.williams@dpi.vic.gov.au

Pseudanapaea tranvestita (Hering 1931) commonly flies in February at Eppalock in central Victoria. The following photographs depict a number of the life stages of this very characteristic species. Although the larvae consumed a number of eucalyptus spp they showed a distinct preference for River Red Gum (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) and it was upon this species that the larvae were raised.



Female at 15th Feb 2012



Eggs 19/02/12



Larvae hatched and hatching 26/02/12



Larva
28/02/12

Larva
15/03/12

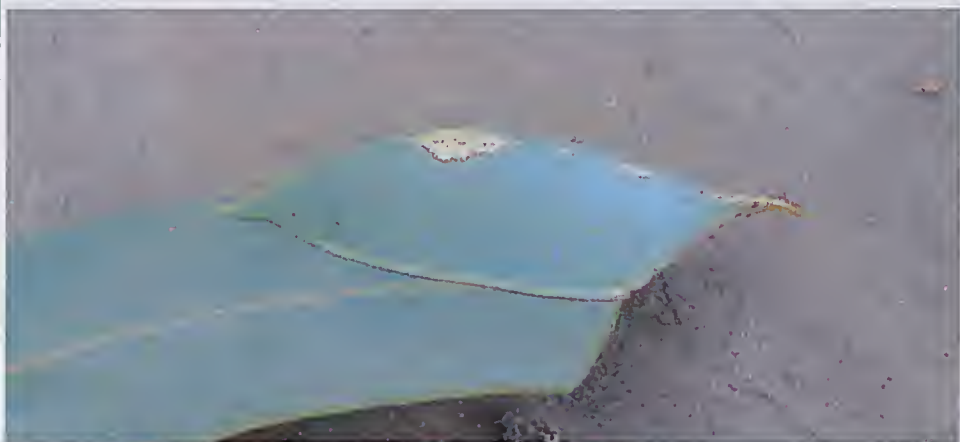




20/03/12

02/04/12

In later instars the larvae appear to lay down or create a shiny surface on the leaf over the areas they traverse when they are feeding. These distinctive pale patches can be seen on the upper surface of the leaf in the photographs above.



17/04/12 ↑

Pseudanapaea tranvestita pupa

← 24/04/12

***Dispar compacta* (Butler) (Lepidoptera: HesperIIDae) oviposition on *Agrostis capillaris* and leaf litter**

Ian Faithfull, 2 Jacana Drive, Carrum Downs, Victoria, 3201

Abstract

Dispar compacta (Butler) (Lepidoptera: HesperIIDae) was observed to deposit two eggs: on a leaf of *Agrostis capillaris* (Poaceae), and on a dead, fallen *Encalyptus pauciflora* (Myrtaceae) leaf. One egg had 13 longitudinal ribs, the other had 14 ribs.

Oviposition

At 15.20 East Australian summer time on 17 February 2006 a Dispar Skipper, *Dispar compacta* was observed ovipositing on a lawn at the Department of Primary Industries campus at 40 Ballarto Road, Frankston North, Victoria. The activity took place over a period of about 20 seconds in an area of sparse lawn immediately beside the concrete kerb of a car park. Two oviposition movements were observed onto a plant of *Agrostis capillaris* L. (Brown-top Bent), but only one egg was found. It was positioned on the underside of a 24 mm long leaf, between the mid vein and the leaf edge, approximately 2 mm above the ligule. This leaf was on a side tiller with several tillers overtopping it. The leaf was green with a few small necrotic patches and above it on the same stem was one fully developed, healthier leaf and another partially grown leaf at the stem tip. The plant was healthy with numerous tillers carrying many leaves. A third oviposition movement observed resulted in deposition of a single egg on one end of a dry, brown, long-fallen *Encalyptus pauciflora* Sieber ex Sprengel (Snow Gum) leaf, 4 mm from the petiole end, although the petiole was missing and the leaf at that end was split in several places and somewhat decayed, with fragments of the lamina missing. The gum leaf was touching the soil at the opposite end and was lodged with others between leaves and stalks of the *Agrostis* plant, immediately beside (within 1 cm of) a small plant of *Ehrharta erecta* Lam. (Panic Veldt Grass). The two eggs were about 6 cm apart.

The two grasses, which had recently been mown to a height of about 3 cm, were the main plants in this area of the lawn, which was partially shaded by a large Snow Gum. However they provided only patchy ground cover. Within a metre of the oviposition area there was much unvegetated ground, bare of litter or sparsely covered with mainly *E. pauciflora* and *Callistemon salignus* (Smith) Sweet, (Willow Bottlebrush) litter. At a distance of about 2 m from the oviposition site areas of more dense *Ehrharta* growth were present, while a few metres away the lawn was much denser with *Kikuyu Pennisetum clandestinum* Hochst. ex Chiov. the dominant grass. Within 1 m of the oviposition area the other grasses present were *Cynodon dactylon* (L.) Pers., Couch and *Microlaena stipoides* (Labill.) R. Br., Weeping Grass. The closest *Gahnia* and *Lomandra* plants were many metres away.

D. compacta is a common species at the site. Adults have been observed there from the second week of January through to mid-March and have been noted feeding at flowers of shrubs and trees in garden plantings including Kanooka, *Tristaniopsis laurina* (Smith) Peter G. Wilson & Waterhouse (Myrtaceae), Lemon-scented Teatree *Leptospermum petersonii* F.M. Bail. (Myrtaceae), and Sweet Bursaria *Bursaria spinosa* Cav. (Pittosporaceae), with males often defending territories around Kanookas when they are flowering abundantly.

Eggs

One egg had 13 longitudinal ribs (as recorded in Braby 2000); the other (deposited on the grass) had 14. The eggs were truncate ovate in shape with a slightly flattened apex ("dome-shaped" - Braby 2000 p. 123).

The eggs were kept separately in small vials under ambient conditions indoors and failed to hatch by November 2006. Bright white in colour immediately after deposition, they became slightly yel-

lowish after 8 hours. 32.5 hours after deposition the eggs were slightly more cream coloured, but could still be described as white, and had developed a somewhat spotted orangey band just above the base and a diffuse area of the same colour at and around the apex. By 14 days after oviposition the underlying colour was greyish on the top half and orangey on the bottom half with the chorion still whitish. No further development was noted to day 33.

Discussion

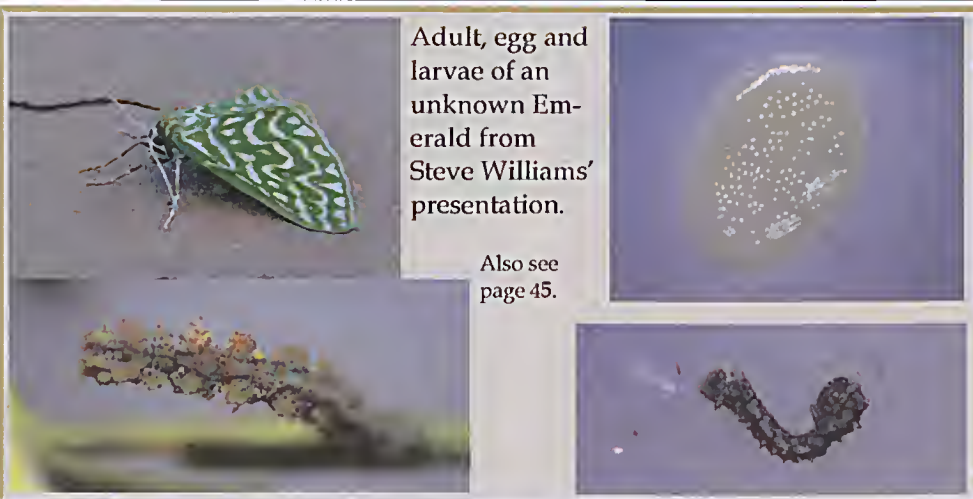
D. compacta is known to oviposit in the early afternoon (Braby 2000), consistent with the above observations, 15.20 summer time being 14.20 standard time. Minor variation in the number of egg ribs appears to be a feature of numerous Australian Hesperidae species (see Braby 2000). The larval foods of this butterfly are poorly known (Braby 2000: unidentified *Gahnia* sp. (Cyperaceae), *Lomandra* sp. (Xanthorrhoeaceae) and *Poa* sp., *Poa tenera* F. Muell. ex Hook. and unidentified grasses). Hesperids often oviposit on leaf litter (see Braby 2000), and a record of oviposition on a particular plant is not a reliable indicator that the plant is a suitable larval host (Kitching and Zalucki 1983). Both *A. capillaris* and *E. erecta* are exotic species, abundant in much of the Melbourne area in lawns, neglected gardens and waste places, and sometimes in bushland. *A. capillaris* is native to Europe and temperate Asia and *E. erecta* to southern Africa (Walsh 1994).

Acknowledgement

Thanks to Kelvyn Dunn for correcting a draft of this note.

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The Australian Entomological Society publishes the *Australian Journal of Entomology* quarterly. The Entomological Society of Victoria is an affiliated society and publishes the contents of the Journal for the wider interests of its members.

ECOLOGY

Shae K Callan, Jonathan D Majer, Karl Edwards & Dorian Moro: Documenting the terrestrial invertebrate fauna of Barrow Island, Western Australia

Scott Carver, Sarah Goater, Geoff R Allen, Raylea M Rowbottom, Emily Fearnley & Philip Weinstein: Relationships of the Ross River virus (Togoviridae: *Alphavirus*) vector, *Aedes camptorhynchus* (Thomson) (Diptera: Culicidae), to biotic and abiotic factors in saltmarshes of south-eastern Tasmania, Australia: a preliminary study

SYSTEMATICS

Leigh A Nelson, Sonja J Scheffer & David K Yeates: Two new species of sympatric *Fergusonina* Malloch flies (Diptera: Fergusoninidae) from bud galls on high-elevation snow gums (*Eucalyptus pauciflora* Sieb. ex Spreng. complex) in the Australian Alps

Randall T Schuh & Katrina Menard: Santalalean-feeding plant bugs: ten new species in the genus *Hypselocnecus* Reuter from Australia and South Africa (Heteroptera: Miridae: Phyllinae): their hosts and placement in the Pilophorini

Anneke A Veenstra, Agnes Michalczyk & Peter Kolesik: Taxonomy of two new species of gall midge (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae) infesting *Tecticornia arbuscula* (Salicornioideae: Chenopodiaceae) in Australian saltmarshes

EVOLUTIONARY ENTOMOLOGY

Michael J McLeish, Michael P Schwarz & Tom W Chapman: Gall inducers take a leap: host-range differences explain speciation opportunity (Thysanoptera: Phlaeothripidae)

PEST MANAGEMENT

Grant A Herron, Brendan J Langfield, Tanya M Tomlinson & Jianhua Mo: Dose-response testing of Australian populations of onion thrips *Thrips tabaci* Lindeman (Thysanoptera: Thripidae) further refines baseline data and detects methidathion and likely imidacloprid resistance

Andrew P Davies, Christopher M Carr, Brad C G Scholz & Myron P Zalucki: Using *Trichogramma* Westwood (Hymenoptera: Trichogrammatidae) for insect pest biological control in cotton crops: an Australian perspective

BIOLOGY

Fiona A Powell, Dieter F Hochuli and Gerasimos Cassis: A new host and additional localities for the rare psyllid *Acizzia keithi* Taylor and Moir (Hemiptera: Psyllidae)

BIOLOGICAL CONTROL

Jennifer E Spinner, Ann M Cowling, Geoff M Gurr, Andrew J Jessup & Olivia L Reynolds: Parasitoid fauna of Queensland fruit fly, *Bactrocera tryoni* Froggatt (Diptera: Tephritidae) in inland New South Wales, Australia and their potential for use in augmentative biological control

Barthelemy Chenaux, Alejandro C Costamagna, Felix J J A Bianchi & Nancy A Schellhorn: Functional response of two common Australian predators, *Dicranolais bellulus* (Guérin-Ménéville) (Coleoptera: Melyridae) and *Micraspis frenata* (Erichson) (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae), attacking *Aphis gossypii* Glover (Hemiptera: Aphididae)

(Continued from page 49)

General Business:

Publications

No further report

Surveys

Discussion was held regarding future invertebrate surveys that the society could be involved in. Mornington Peninsula was discussed but not a high priority for us at present.

There has also been an approach by a member of Trust for Nature re: possible surveys on Trust properties. More information is needed on this option. Some interest was expressed.

Website/BowerBird

Discussions are planned for June between the programming team of BowerBird and our society.

South East Australian Naturalists' Association Inc. (SEANA) Campout at Bendigo 17th-19th August
Marilyn Hewish, Steve Williams and Ken Harris from our society will present a program on moths. The society will consider how best to promote the organization to the participants, perhaps including some sort of colour pamphlet.

2012 Schedule

Peter Marriott will approach one or more Friends groups to arrange for a combined event in their area for the December meeting.

The new facilities for DPL including the insect section will be at Bundoora from July this year. This may be an excursion option for 2013. Meeting closed 18:14

2012 meeting dates

A number of people have been informally meeting up at Michelinos Trattoria Restaurant prior to general meetings. Any members who would like to meet informally at Michelinos – at around 18:00 – are welcome to join us for a pre meeting chat / food. Reminder meetings **now begin at 19:45**.

Month	Date	Planned event	Topic
June	19th	General meeting	Members' Presentations
August	21st	Members' Excursion	Excursion: Museum Entomological Department
October	16th	General meeting	Members' presentations
December	11th	General meeting	Members' excursion venue to be confirmed Note: second Tuesday of December
Council meeting dates: July 17th, September 18th and November 20th			

Corrigenda:

VE Vol.42 No.2 page 40 Figure left is *Theretra margarita* and Figure right is *Grammodes justa*

Vol.41 No.6 p.115 Figure 14 Should read: *Chlorocystis filata* on *Correa* sp

Additional information: *Vic. Ent.* 42(2), 38 I think the unidentified Cerambycidae in the photo is *Xystrocera virescens* Newman (Cerambycinae: Methiini). The legs are fairly distinctive and the size is right. Not a common thing in my experience. Host plants are *Acacia* spp and some evidence it emerges in very hot weather. Ian Faithfull.

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Thanks to Daniel Dobrosak, Marilyn Hewish and Laura Levens for assistance in producing the Victorian Entomologist

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Invertebrate Dept.

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DIARY OF COMING EVENTS

Tuesday June 19th 2012
Note 7:45 pm start
Members presentations

Tuesday July 17th
 Council Meeting

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